

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Minor changes are made to this specification. Claims 1-8, 15-18, and 24 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 9-14, 19-23, and 25-31 are pending in the application. Examination and consideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested.

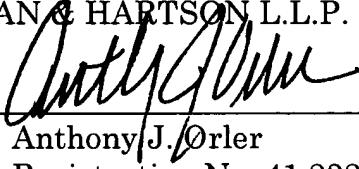
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 337-6742 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

If there are any fees due in connection with the filing of this response, please charge the fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-1314.

Respectfully submitted,

HOGAN & HARTSON L.L.P.

Date: March 2, 2004

By: 
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